Wintonotitan

Wintonotitan (meaning "Winton titan") is a genus of titanosauriform dinosaur from late Albian (Early Cretaceous)-age Winton Formation of Australia. It is known from partial postcranial remains.

Contents

Description and history
Paleoecology
References
External links

Wintonotitan

Temporal range: Cenomanian,[1]

95 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

Silhouette of *Wintonotitan wattsi* with known skeletal elements

Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Clade:	Saurischia
Suborder:	†Sauropodomorpha
Clade:	†Sauropoda
Genus:	†*Wintonotitan*
Species:	†***W. wattsi***

Binomial name

†***Wintonotitan wattsi***

Hocknull *et al.*, 2009

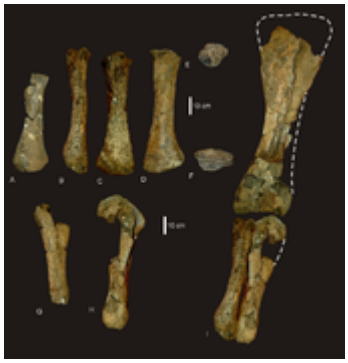
Description and history

Life restoration

Fossils that are now known under the name *Wintonotitan* were first found in 1974 by Keith Watts. At the time, the specimens were assigned to an *Austrosaurus* sp., *Austrosaurus* then being the only named Australian Cretaceous sauropod genus. These fossils, catalogued as QMF 7292, consisted of a left shoulder blade, much of the forelimbs, a number of back, hip, and tail vertebrae, part of the right hip, ribs, chevrons, and unidentifiable fragments. QMF 7292 was established as the type specimen of *Wintonotitan* in 2009 by Scott Hocknull and colleagues. Hocknull suggested that *Austrosaurus mckillopi* differed only slightly from the QMF 7292, the holotype of *Wintonotitan wattsii*, and should be considered a *nomen dubium*. The type species is *W. wattsi*, honoring the original discoverer. A phylogenetic analysis found *Wintonotitan* to be a basal titanosauriform sauropod, in a comparable part of the titanosauriform tree to *Phuwiangosaurus*.[2]

Paleoecology

QMF 7292 was found about 60 kilometres (37 mi) northwest of Winton, near Elderslie Station. A second specimen, QMF 10916, consisting of isolated tail vertebrae, was found at Chorregan. Both were recovered from the lower part of the Winton Formation, dated to the latest Albian. QMF 7292 was found in sandstone interpreted as a point bar of a river. Also found at the site were fish fragments, a theropod tooth, and a variety of plant fossils, including woody stems, branch impressions, cones and cone scales, and pieces of leaves. The Winton Formation had a faunal assemblage including bivalves, gastropods, insects, the lungfish *Metaceratodus*, turtles, the crocodilian *Isisfordia*, pterosaurs, and several types of dinosaurs, such as the theropod *Australovenator*, the sauropod *Diamantinasaurus*, and unnamed ankylosaurians and



Arm bones

hypsilophodonts. *Wintonotitan* bones can be distinguished from *Diamantinasaurus* bones because *Wintonotitan* bones are not as robust. Plants known from the formation include ferns, ginkgoes, gymnosperms, and angiosperms.[2] Like other sauropods, *Wintonotitan* would have been a large quadrupedal herbivore.[3]

References

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External links

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